



Spreading Holiday Cheer

During the holidays, you are probably busy shopping, decorating your home, and entertaining guests. We'd like to give you a breather from the holiday rush by showing you how to keep and share some holiday conservation cheer.

Celebrate conservation with kids.

With kids out of school for the holiday break and families coming over to visit, now is a great time to teach them about conservation and how to practice it every day. The City of San Diego has a dedicated web page for children with activity books to access and contests to enter for prizes.

Hit the off button when it rains.

Relax and let the rain do the watering. Turn off your sprinklers when it rains. If you're interested in improving your irrigation system, check out the smart irrigation controller. They have sensors that can detect weather conditions and then modify your sprinkler usage. They save water, they save money and Santa's elves make a wide variety of them.

Explore water.

Learn about water at the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center and explore the interactive display "San Diego's Water: From Source to Tap." The San Diego Natural History Museum also has a fun exhibit

called "Water: A California Story" that uses photos, maps, videos, and hand-on activities to look at the effects of a changing climate on our region's water supply.

Enjoy the garden.

Escape from the hustle and bustle of the holidays by taking a stroll at the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College. Learn about water-wise gardening and how you can beautify your own landscape with the Nifty-Fifty plant collection. With these types of plants, you'll have a garden that will thrive in California's semi-arid climate all year-long.

Refresh with a five-minute shower.

Wouldn't it be great to save water and money by taking the recommended five-minute shower? A five-minute shower only uses 10-25 gallons of water in comparison to a bath which can use up to 70 gallons of water. Not sure when to get out of the shower, think about using a shower timer.

So remember, 'tis the season – as is every season – to be a San Diegan that "wastes no water." For more cheerful water-saving tips that are easy to do this holiday and all year long, [click here](#).

Happy Holidays from the Water Conservation Team!

IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The message to "waste no water" is all throughout San Diego. Enjoy the holidays and think about the importance of water at:

SAN DIEGO BOAT PARADE OF LIGHTS Sunday, December 18, 2011.

The approximate arrival time of the parade at various locations is:

- Shelter Island (start of parade) - 5:30 p.m.
- Harbor Island - 6 p.m.
- The Embarcadero - 6:30 p.m.
- Seaport Village - 7 p.m.
- Ferry Landing on Coronado - 7:30 p.m.

For more parade details, [click here](#).

SPEAKERS BUREAU

Water Conservation professionals are available to speak to your community group, club, organization, business or school. Our team will customize a presentation to meet the needs of your group. For topic listings or to schedule a presentation, [click here](#).

DID YOU KNOW?

How much rainfall does San Diego average in a year?

San Diego's average coastal rainfall is 10.33 inches per year and the average coastal rainfall during the month of December is 1.53 inches.

Source: National Climatic Data Center



Let the rain
do the
watering.

Identify Leaks & Savings, Just Like Donna

This month, we spoke with Donna Lipper, who took advantage of the City of San Diego's Residential Water Survey Program. This City-wide program is offered at no extra charge to single-family and multi-family (up to eight units) water customers who pay their water bills to the City of San Diego. As part of this program, a Water Conservation Representative will tour your property to identify leaks and water-saving opportunities inside and outside your home. Consider this a gift for yourself and your family. It's free and you can even identify more ways to save money.

Q: How did you hear about the survey program?

A: I called the Public Utilities Department after receiving a bill because I noticed an increase in my water consumption. They recommended this program to help identify areas in my house and in my landscaping where I could decrease my water usage.

Q: What were your expectations going into the survey?

A: My water bill increased by \$50 in one month and I hoped the Water Conservation Representative might help me identify where I could save water and if I had any leaks.

Q: What happened during the survey?

A: A very nice representative came to my property and talked with me about my water usage. He checked the water pressure and for leaks in the bathrooms, kitchen and laundry room in the house. He showed me how to shut off my main water valve at the street in case my water main breaks. And, he checked my irrigation settings for leaks. The survey was very easy and not time consuming.



Water Survey

Q: Did you find what caused the \$50 increase in your water bill?

A: The surveyor determined that my increase in my last water bill was because I was watering my landscaping way too often and for way too much time. He showed me how to make the appropriate changes to my irrigation timers. Now with the winter rains coming, I only need to water my landscaping twice a week! Also, he didn't discover any leaks, but he did install an aerator to my faucet to help decrease my water consumption in the kitchen.

Q: Would you recommend this program to other San Diegans?

A: Absolutely. The representative was very professional and personable. He did a nice job explaining things and was very courteous of my home. Also, he helped me decrease my water consumption which I hope will help me have a lower water bill.

Give yourself the gift of water conservation by participating in the Residential Water Survey Program. For more information or to schedule a survey, [click here](#).

Water Conservation Team: Learning & Leading

San Diego showcased its wonderful low-water use landscapes to thousands of landscape architects and irrigation specialists as it played host to two conferences. Our very own Supervising Landscape Conservation Designer, Joey Jacoby, attended both the American Society of Landscape Architect's Annual Meeting and Expo, and the Irrigation Show and Expo held at the San Diego Convention Center.

Both conferences focused on the latest green technology and trends. Highlights of the sessions included: rain catchment, 'net-zero' home and landscape designs (using only rainwater supply), highly efficient irrigation drip systems, and native and low-water use plants.

For sustainable landscape techniques that you can implement into your yard, [click here](#).



Low-Water Use Plants

YOUTH CONTESTS

Water Conservation Film Contest

The *Waste No Water* Film Contest is open to all 11th and 12th grade and college students in the cities of San Diego, Imperial Beach and Coronado. Deadline for entries is April 6, 2012. For contest details and the entry form, please [click here](#).

UCSD Hydration Station Design Competition

Hydration stations will be installed at UCSD and the Engineers for a Sustainable World is looking for 10-12 year olds, who attend school in the San Diego County, to create artwork to incorporate in these stations. For competition criteria and deadlines, [click here](#).



Hydration Station

ONLINE RESOURCES

Rainwater Harvesting

Now that the rainy season has started, learn more about rainwater harvesting. The technique is used to collect, store and use rainwater for landscape irrigation and other uses. For general information about rainwater harvesting systems and helpful links and references, [click here](#).

Social Media

Click the links in the stories or scan the codes below with your smart phone's QR code scanner to get connected with *San Diegans Waste No Water* today.

Website



Facebook



Twitter

